

STATINTL

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INVESTIGATION OF TOP OFFICIAL

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STEPHEN GEER: "The Central Intelligence Agency is back in the news today in a bizarre case involving a jewel theft, among other things. Bill Diehl has that story."

DIEHL: "The CIA is continuing its investigation today into the affairs of one of its high-level officials: 55-year-old Hans V. Tofte. Tofte came under a CIA probe after classified documents were found in his Georgetown home by another CIA man who was looking for a place to live.

"The story took on further ramifications when Tofte reported some twenty thousand dollars in jewelry was missing. Tofte said the theft was discovered shortly after two CIA officials returned to his home and recovered the documents. Tofte says the documents in question were on the third floor of his home in a library where he worked. He said they were not in plain view and, furthermore, it's customary for CIA executives and senior personnel to take papers home.

"Tofte said the new CIA Director, Richard Helms, is an old friend and he would like to see him, but so far has had no success. We interviewed Mr. Tofte this morning."

REPORTER: "How do you think you're going to come out in all this?"

TOFTE: "I have no idea, but I do know that since I came over here as a refugee this business first -- the OSS, then the CIA -- that has sort of been my family. I know I have many, many, many good friends. The thing that irks me is that the system has worked out in such a way that it looks as if you can be dropped as an old banana peel without seeing your best friends. So when I found that my home was invaded -- my lawyer calls it grand larceny -- and my 86-year-old mother-in-law -- my senior citizen -- was bamboozled, I was outraged. Nobody pushes my family around and nobody pushes any senior citizen around in my presence.

GEER: "Meanwhile, J. C. Chatel, a realtor who now owns the house, says he's considering legal action against the CIA for illegal entry.

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"Tofte has been with the CIA about sixteen years. His work with the Office of Strategic Services in World War II won him the nation's Legion of Merit.

"So far, the CIA has said little except that exposed classified documents in a private home is a violation of Agency security regulations."